

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHORRA 00077 240936Z

45

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-04 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-07

SWF-02 DRC-01 /054 W

----- 101248

R 240855Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 190

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

ZEN AMEMBASSY TEHRAN (POUCH)

ZEN USINT BAGHDAD (POUCH)

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS KHORRAMSHAHR 77

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IR, IZ

SUBJECT: PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE: PORT OF BASRA

REF: BAGHDAD 422; STATE 119329

1. SHIPPING REPRESENTATIVES IN KHORRAMSHAHR REPORT THAT WAITING TIME AT BASRA FOR GENERAL CARGO VESSELS IS AS HIGH AS 30 DAYS. CONGESTION SURCHARGE RECENTLY INCREASED FROM 20 TO 30 PERCENT. FEELING HERE IS THAT IF SITUATION FURTHER DETERIORATES, SOME LINES MAY STOP CALLING AT BASRA.

2. ACCORDING TO REPS, DELAYS IN BERTHING DUE TO NUMBER OF FACTORS: ANTIQUATED CUSTOMS REGULATIONS, SHORTAGE OF CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT, STORAGE SPACE AND TRANSPORT TO MOVE GOODS OFF JETTIES, AND GENERAL RELUCTANCE OF PORT AUTHORITIES TO ATTEMPT IMPROVEMENT OF SITUATION. VESSELS CARRYING GRAIN AND RICE SHIPMENTS OR MILITARY CARGO ARE BERTHED OUT OF TURN, ADDING FURTHER
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TO DELAYS FOR GENERAL CARGO SHIPS. THERE ARE NO PLANS

TO INCREASE NUMBER OF JETTIES AT PORT BEYOND THE 14 IN OPERATION AT PRESENT. SEVERAL OF THESE HAVE PARTIALLY SLIPPED INTO RIVER AS RESULT OF FAULTY DESIGN AND CAN BE USED BY SMALL VESSELS ONLY.

3. REPRESENTATIVES HERE HOPEFUL THAT IRAQ WILL ACCEPT SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION FOR SHIPS CALLING AT BASRA. THIS WOULD PERMIT VESSELS TO REGISTER FOR A BERTH WHILE STILL SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM PORT, PERHAPS IN KUWAIT. THEN, INSTEAD OF SITTING IDLE WHILE AWAITING TURN TO BERTH, SHIPS COULD CALL AT OTHER LESS CONGESTED PORTS BEFORE ARRIVING IN BASRA. THIS WOULD REDUCE ACTUAL WAITING TIME BY UP TO 65 PERCENT. SUCH A SYSTEM IS ALREADY IN EFFECT AT KHORRAMSHAHR.

4. WHETHER OR NOT BASRA PORT AUTHORITIES WILL ACCEPT SUCH A SYSTEM IS STILL UNCLEAR. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES WHO NORMALLY TRAVEL TO BASRA ON FAIRLY REGULAR BASIS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN VISAS SINCE MID-MAY, ROUGHLY SAME TIME CONGESTION PROBLEM BECAME ACUTE. NO REASON GIVEN BY IRAQI OFFICIALS FOR REFUSAL TO GRANT VISAS. HORNBLow

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Drafter: n/a
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